

REMARKS:

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite based on the use of the term "introduced." Claim 48 has been amended to replace the words "introduced into" with "applied to." The language "applied to" parallels the term "application" in claim 37 from which claim 48 depends and wherein such term was found acceptable. Therefore, it is believed that the subject rejection has been obviated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal also are requested of the rejections of claims 37-39, 41-43, 45-47, 49, 51-54, 57-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Emerson et al. reference and of claims 28,29, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Emerson et al. reference. Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of claim 55 and so represents claim 55 rewritten in independent form. The subject Office Action advises that claim 55 would be allowable if so rewritten. Thus, claim 37 is submitted to define patentability over the Emerson et al. reference and to be in allowable condition. All remaining claims depend from claim 37 and so are submitted likewise to define over the Emerson et al. reference and to be in allowable condition. Therefore, withdrawal of the subject rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 40, 44, 48, 50, 55, and 56 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and the Office Action advises that they would be allowable if rewritten so as to no longer depend from a rejected claim. Such claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 37, which has been so amended. Thus, such claims now depend from an allowable claim. Withdrawal of the objection, therefore, is respectfully requested.



In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all claims now pending are in a condition for allowance and favorable consideration of all claims, withdrawal of pending rejections and early allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Kenneth Solomon

Reg. No. 31,427

Thompson Coburn LLP

One U.S. Bank Plaza

St. Louis, MO 63101

314-552-6297

314-552-7297 (fax)